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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/820,891	03/30/2001	Ray Bentley	36488-169756	4447
26694	7590	02/02/2005	EXAMINER	
VENABLE, BAETJER, HOWARD AND CIVILETTI, LLP P.O. BOX 34385 WASHINGTON, DC 20043-9998				FRANCIS, MARK P
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2124				

DATE MAILED: 02/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Offic Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/820,891	BENTLEY, RAY
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Mark P. Francis	2124

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 March 2001.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-42 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 15, 16, 20 and 21 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 30 March 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the application filed on March 30, 2001.
2. Claims 1-42 have been examined.

Priority

3. The priority date considered for this application is March 30, 2001.

Oath/Declaration

4. The Office acknowledges receipt of a properly signed oath/declaration filed on March 30, 2001.

Drawings

5. The drawings filed on March 30, 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.

Claim Objections

6. Claims 15 and 19 are objected to because of the following informalities: The claims should be labeled with a letter (a,b,c,d...) that corresponds to respective step that is referenced in their dependent claims(16;20,21;respectively). Applicant failed to identify the location of the claimed steps in the previously referenced claims

Appropriate correction is required.

7. Claims 16,20, and 21 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Applicant failed to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim by referencing steps that were not mentioned in the previous claims. Applicant might have mislabeled the referenced

claims in claims 16,20, and 21. Applicant could have meant. "The method according to claim 11,...?"

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

8. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

9. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

On page 18, line 2, Applicant states "wherein altering step is performed after editing is completed." renders the claim indefinite. It is not clear how and when the altering function is being performed? In the previously referenced claim, claim 1, applicant states that the altering function will be performed during the editing phase. Why would the altering function need to be performed during the editing phase and exactly after the editing phase? Is applicant possibly missing a step(s)?

Appropriate Correction is required

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

10. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

11. Claims 1,11, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The language of the claim raises a question as to whether the claim is directed merely to an abstract idea that is not tied to a

technological art, environment or machine which would result in a practical application producing a concrete, useful, and tangible result to form the basis of statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. 101. Although Applicant identifies a native system as a platform or medium, it is not clear as to whether the native system directly performs any of the functions mentioned in the claims.

Appropriate Correction is required

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

12. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

13. Claims 1-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by

Dingman.(6,820,135)

With respect to claims 1,3,6,11,25,26,28,29,31,32, and 42 Dingman teaches a method for lossless manipulation of data between different formats, comprising: receiving a first file containing data in a first format;(See Abstract, lines 1-5, "transforms data received..." and Col 13, lines 41-46, "...the data source may be a file stored...") converting the data in the first file into a second format; (Col 2, lines 6-14, "The process of converting...")

preserving data in the first file that cannot be represented in the second format;(Col 29, lines 22-38, "...Reject targets may be used to store records..." and Col 26 lines 53-56, "...writing the source code record to an exceptions file.")) changing the data while it is in the second format; (Col 30, lines 33-44, "...data changes are evaluated...") and producing a file in the first format including the preserved data and the changes to the data.(Col 31, lines 50-60, "After this transformation is executed..." and (Col 32, lines 5-67 and Col 33, lines 32-51, "These changes in the ..." and Col 8, lines 33-57, "...to retrieve and write data to the data structures in a source or target...")

With respect to claims 2,16, and 30, the 102 rejection of claims 1,15, and 29, respectively is incorporated and further, Dingman teaches wherein steps c) and d) comprise: creating a list of the key values for entities in the second data that have been changed; (Col 4, lines 49-52, "...of the records by key values...") locating entities in the first data corresponding to the entities in the second data that have been changed based on the key value; (Col 15, lines 48-67, "...specifying where the data from the source should..." and Col 16, lines ALL "...When the user specifies an expression..." Col 17, lines ALL) and making the tracked changes(Col 34, lines 24-28, " The user is able to perform basic management operations...") directly to the corresponding entities in the first data. (Col 32, lines 5-67 and Col 33, lines 32-51, "These changes in the ...")

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With respect to claims 4,17, and 38, the 102 rejection of claims 1 and 32, respectively is incorporated and further, Dingman teaches further comprising: maintaining a representation of each entity in the second data in the native format before editing;(Col 33, lines 15-45, "template transformations can be first be created...") maintaining a representation of each entity in the second data in the native format after editing;(Col 33, lines 15-51, "...can then be called and edited...") and comparing the representations to determine changes made to the entities. (Col 33, lines 40-51, "These changes in the transformation can...")

With respect to claim 5, the 102 rejection of claim 1 is incorporated and further, Dingman teaches further comprising converting only data in the foreign format that has a corresponding container in the native format.(Col 6, lines 9-30, "...relates one or more source structures to one or more target structures..."

With respect to claim 7, the 102 rejection of claim 1 is incorporated and further, Dingman teaches wherein the altering step is performed after editing is completed. (Col 33, lines 15-51, "...can then be called and edited...")

With respect to claims 8,19, and 29, the 102 rejection of claims 1,15, and 28, respectively is incorporated and further, Dingman teaches wherein the changes included at least one of addition, deletion, or modification of the data. (Col 1, lines 54-

64, "...Common content changes include adding, deleting, aggregating, concatenating, and otherwise...")

With respect to claims 9,22, and 39, the 102 rejection of claims 1, 11, and 32, respectively is incorporated and further, Dingman teaches further comprising creating a representation of the converted data in memory only.(Col 27, lines 41-66 and Col 28, lines 1-4, " Put-writes the data in the target record memory buffer into the data target...")

With respect to claims 10,23, and 40, the 102 rejection of claims 1, 22, and 39, respectively is incorporated and further, Dingman teaches further comprising deleting the second data from memory after an editing session ends. (Col 10, lines 40-45, "...with the transformation results (insert, update, or delete)."

With respect to claims 12 and 33, the 102 rejection of claims 11 and 32, respectively is incorporated and further, Dingman teaches wherein the first and second data comprise a plurality of entities.(Col 5, lines 1-22, "...that describe a specific entity. Also known as a record.")

With respect to claims 13,24,34, and 41, the 102 rejection of claims 12, 33, and 32, respectively is incorporated and further, Dingman teaches wherein the steps further comprise: determining a relationship between entities in the first data; (Col 6, lines 49-60, "...to define the relationship between one or more data sources...")

determining a mapping between the entities in the first data; (Col 6, lines 22-30, "...a transformation map that comprises one or more mappings..." and Col 15, lines 49-62, "define the transformation map by specifying where the data from the source should appear in the data target as well as the relationship...") and altering the mapping of the entities in the first data based on the editing session, if necessary. (Col 15, lines 64-67, "...visual mapping interface... and Col 16, lines 1-45, "...The present invention contemplates the use of expressions when defining the mapping between source and target data...")

With respect to claims 14,15,35, and 36, the 102 rejection of claims 12 and 33, respectively is incorporated and further, Dingman teaches further comprising: determining the key value for each entity in the first data;(Col 10, lines 40-35, "..to determine record types...") and using the same key value as the first data to identify corresponding entities in the second data. (Col 5, lines 10-20, ... "Certain fields may be designated as keys,...")

With respect to claims 16 and 37, the 102 rejection of claims 15 and 32, respectively is incorporated and further, Dingman teaches wherein steps d) and e) comprises: creating a list of the key values for entities in the second data changed during editing; (Col 5, lines 10-20, "Certain fields may be designated as keys...")

locating the corresponding entity in the first data based on the key value; (Col 15, lines 48-67, "...specifying where the data from the source should..." and Col 16, lines ALL "...When the user specifies an expression..." Col 17, lines ALL)

and making the change directly to the corresponding entity in the first data. .(Col 31, lines 50-60, "After this transformation is executed..." and (Col 32, lines 5-67 and Col 33, lines 32-51, "These changes in the ..." and Col 8, lines 33-57, "...to retrieve and write data to the data structures in a source or target...")

With respect to claim 18, the 102 rejection of claim 11 is incorporated and further, Dingman teaches wherein only entities that have been changed in the second data are changed in the first data.(Col 15, lines 49-62, "The user may define the transformation map by specifying where the data from the source should appear in the data target... remove unwanted characters...")

With respect to claim 20, the 102 rejection of claim 19 is incorporated and further, Dingman teaches wherein the change comprises deleting an entity. (Col 15, lines 49-62, "The user may define the transformation map by specifying where the data from the source should appear in the data target... remove unwanted characters...")

and step d) comprises locating(Col 4, lines 49-52, "...indexed retrieval of the records by key values.") and deleting an entity with a corresponding key value in the foreign file and deleting it.(Col 33, lines 52-67, "Project steps can be re-arranged, deleted, added, or edited..." and Col 34, lines 1-5).

With respect to claim 21, the 102 rejection of claim 19 is incorporated and further, Dingman teaches wherein the change comprises adding a new entity (Col 34, lines 19-28, "...basic management operations on the database contents(new, delete, edit, export, import...") and step d) comprises creating a representation of the new entity in the foreign format, determining a key value for the new entity,(Col 26, lines 31-41, "...used to validate target values...") and associating the representation with the new key value.(Col 26,lines 42-48, "...is triggered just after a target record is sent to the target.")

With respect to claim 27, the rejection of claim 25 is incorporated and further, Dingman teaches wherein the file is produced by converting the changed data in the second format into the first format. (Col 31, lines 50-60, "After this transformation is executed..." and (Col 32, lines 5-67 and Col 33, lines 32-51, "These changes in the ..." and Col 8, lines 33-57, "...to retrieve and write data to the data structures in a source or target...")

and importing the preserved data into the converted, changed data.(Col 29, lines 22-38,
"...are whether both of the targets (i.e.,the primary and reject)...")

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark P. Francis whose telephone number is (571)272-7956. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kakali Chaki can be reached on (571) 272-3719. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



**ANTONY NGUYEN-BA
PRIMARY EXAMINER**